

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 19 35



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 19 35

Location: Hwy 570, east of Dorothy, AB

GPS: 51d 16m 14.64s -112d 12m 55.92s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "Entering Wyoming" Highway

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 9 north to Drumheller and then Hwy 10 / Hwy 56 southeast from Drumheller towards Dorothy. Continue southeast on Hwy 10 to Hwy 570 East, and proceed to the yellow bridge in Dorothy. Continue past the yellow bridge 8.4 km to the turnout on the left side of Hwy 570. Look west to view the "Entering Wyoming" Highway.

[Alternately, take Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy) to Hwy 21. Go north to Hwy 564 and turn right (east). (Or, go south from Rockyford to Hwy 564 and turn left.) The pavement ends at approximately 57.3 km (Township Road 260, Range Road 182) but Hwy 564 turns left and becomes a gravel road. At the stop sign (6.3 km) turn right onto Hwy 848 North (or follow the sign to Dorothy).

Park and climb the hill on the curve at 8.3 km for an overview of Dorothy and the valley of the Red Deer River. (Beware of cactus growing on the hill!) Continue driving 0.7 km to Earl's ditch (at 9 km), on the left side of the broken wood fence rails. Continue approximately 0.5 km and cross the yellow bridge.

At the intersection of Hwy 848 and Hwy 570, turn right (east) on Hwy 570 and go 8.4 km to the turnout on the left side of the road. Look west to view the "Entering Wyoming" Highway.

Note: Although this is a very direct way to Dorothy, some of these roads are little traveled and farm houses may be several kilometers apart. If your vehicle can't stand it, the highways through Drumheller may be a better choice.]

Remarks:

Behold, you are looking at the most elusive of *Brokeback Mountain's* alluring sites!

Year after year, again and again, love-struck Jack drove some 14 hours toward this place. We expended even more time and gasoline trying to find it. From very early in our search, people associated with the film assured us that this scene was filmed near the Divorce Cabin on Hwy 520, west of Claresholm. Two people who actually live in that area told us that the coulee and road were, indeed, very close by. Over the course of five trips to Alberta, beginning in 2006, we became

intimately acquainted with many of the back roads “north of Hwy 3, west of 2, and east of 22.” But try as we might, we could never find this enchanting and suggestive place where the road magically undulates before a dark and distant chasm.

In 2009, after almost “four [you-know] years” of searching, we finally found it while looking to see what was around a curve in the road east of the tiny hamlet of Dorothy, a three-hour drive northeast of Claresholm! And, as was often the case while scouting these filming locations, we also found another one that had eluded us—the “Texas Highway”—by turning around and looking in the opposite direction!

The filmmakers may have forgotten this enchanting place, but thanks to the epic efforts of our volunteers, we never will.

See also DVD Chapter 14, [01 22 17](#), Texas Highway.

Note: To view or photograph this scene in the same light as when it was filmed for *Brokeback*, visit this location in mid- to late afternoon. While Hwy 570 has little traffic, if you are patient you may see a few pickup trucks pass through this location, as we did.

Quotation:

“King of the road!”

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 25 February 2014

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 19 57



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 19 57

Location: Hwy 520 near Range Road 283, west of Claresholm, AB

GPS: 49d 59m 18.54s -113d 44m 10.38s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Divorce Cabin

Travel Directions:

John and Kerry Hart farm, Hwy 520 and Range Road 283, 14.2 km west of Claresholm, AB. From Claresholm, follow 43rd Avenue (Hwy 520) west 14.2 km. (Beware: This road takes an abrupt and poorly marked curve at 7.2 km. Don't make the same mistake Ennis's parents did!) Park at the gate. The cabin, on the left (south) side of Hwy 520, is a short walk from the roadway.

Remarks:

Oscar Wilde had it right, "Life imitates art far more than art imitates life." The large tract of land upon which both the Divorce Cabin and the Lonesome Ranch sit has been in the same Alberta farming family for generations. The cabin was built in 1927 for a "bachelor" uncle who, much like his *Brokeback* successor, appreciated the solitude of this simple shelter. Somewhat short on amenities, the place features a rustic Windcharger (electric generation) tower, outhouse, and root cellar.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property.

Quotation:

"So here I am."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 22 17



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 22 17

Location: Hwy 570, east of Dorothy, AB

GPS: 51d 16m 14.04s -112d 12m 52.74s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Texas Highway

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 9 north to Drumheller and then Hwy 10 / Hwy 56 southeast from Drumheller towards Dorothy. Continue southeast on Hwy 10 to Hwy 570 East, and proceed to the yellow bridge in Dorothy. Continue past the yellow bridge 8.4 km to the turnout on the right side of Hwy 570. Look northeast, across the road, to view the Texas Highway.

[Alternately, take Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy) to Hwy 21. Go north to Hwy 564 and turn right (east). (Or, go south from Rockyford to Hwy 564 and turn left.) The pavement ends at approximately 57.3 km (Township Road 260, Range Road 182) but Hwy 564 turns left and becomes a gravel road. At the stop sign (6.3 km) turn right onto Hwy 848 North (or follow the sign to Dorothy).

Park and climb the hill on the curve at 8.3 km for an overview of Dorothy and the valley of the Red Deer River. (Beware of cactus growing on the hill!) Continue driving 0.7 km to Earl's ditch (at 9 km), on the left side of the broken wood fence rails. Continue approximately 0.5 km and cross the yellow bridge.

At the intersection of Hwy 848 and Hwy 570, turn right (east) on Hwy 570 and go 8.4 km to the turnout on the right side of Hwy 570. Look northeast, across the road, to view the Texas Highway.

Note: Although this is a very direct way to Dorothy, some of these roads are little traveled and farm houses may be several kilometers apart. If your vehicle can't stand it, the highways through Drumheller may be a better choice.]

Remarks:

The "Entering Wyoming" and "Texas Highway" scenes were filmed from opposite directions on the same road. And opposites they truly are.

The "Entering Wyoming" landscape is one of activity and anticipation. The road sign helps; it marks an entrance, and the lively Wyoming Cowboy motif underscores the theme of action. Consider, too, this extremely wavy section of highway, one in which motion occurs not only from near to far, but up and down, as well. The truck is, quite naturally, "red-lining" it. And, in case you have not yet

grown anxious enough, Jake Gyllenhaal’s gleefully pregnant “King of the Road” completes the effect. Energy and expectation are everywhere: the words, the bucking horse, the rippling road, the speeding truck, and in Jack’s song and smile.

Aptly, the “Texas Highway” scene is quite different. It consists of a terribly bland, straight road. The road goes uphill. A hillside to the rear of the shot is covered with mature grasses. The road sign conveys neither immediacy nor action, but distance. Laden as it is with contrasting imagery, it is an appropriate venue for one of Jake Gyllenhaal’s most convincing performances, one of pure grueling emotion—not a word was needed.

See also DVD Chapter 14, [01 19 35](#), “Entering Wyoming” Highway.

Note: To view or photograph this scene in the same light as when it was filmed for *Brokeback*, visit this location in mid- to late afternoon. While Hwy 570 has little traffic, if you are patient you may see a few pickup trucks pass through this location, as we did.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 25 February 2014

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 22 24



DVD capture



Photo courtesy Jan Geyer.

DVD Time Code = 01 22 24

Location: La Mesilla, New Mexico, U.S.A.

GPS: 32d 16m 28.90s -106d 47m 38.05s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Juarez Skyline

Travel Directions:

Near Las Cruces, New Mexico, U.S.A. South of US Hwy 180 and I-25, W of I-10. The building in the foreground is located at the corner of Calle de Parian and NM Rt 28.

Remarks:

If you are looking for the Juarez skyline in Alberta, you need to go back to the airport! This shot was made in La Mesilla, near Las Cruces, New Mexico.

La Mesilla ("Little Tableland") is a lovely historical community near Las Cruces. Since its beginning, around 1848, Mesilla has had a major influence on the southern part of what is now New Mexico. Once home to Billy the Kid and later a lively social center, the town has a prominent part in the rich history of the southwestern U.S.A.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 22 31



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 22 31

Location: Calgary, AB, 805 24th Avenue SE

GPS: 51d 1m 54.30s -114d 2m 36.54s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Alley

Travel Directions:

East of Stampede Park, behind the Ramsay Design Center.

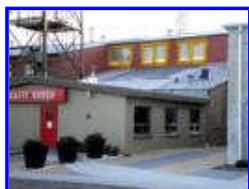
Go east on 9th Avenue SE, cross the bridge, turn right on 8th Street SE (also known as "Spiller Road SE"), then turn left on 24th Avenue SE to 805. Note: The red building opposite the alley has been demolished.

Remarks:

Never has a one-word scene conveyed as much pain as *Brokeback Mountain's* Juarez alley scene. This alley, located behind a former Calgary fitness center, seems an unlikely place for rejected cowboys and Mexican hustlers, but it served both well in the film. The opposite wall, upon which the set designers struggled to crowd in as many Spanish words as possible, is a prop.

There is no truth to the unfortunate local rumors that the *Brokeback* production crew re-named "Ramsay," "Ram-Me."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 25 February 2014

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 22 45



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 22 45

Location: Calgary, AB, 805 24th Avenue SE

GPS: 51d 1m 54.30s -114d 2m 36.54s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Alley

Travel Directions:

East of Stampede Park, behind the Ramsay Design Center.

Go east on 9th Avenue SE, cross the bridge, turn right on 8th Street SE (also known as "Spiller Road SE"), then turn left on 24th Avenue SE to 805. Note: The red building opposite the alley has been demolished.

Remarks:

"Mexico was THE place - Ennis has heard." Some of us take issue with the entire "Mexico" thing. If Mexico is, or ever was, known for its bevy of male hustlers, it is news to us. There are plenty of places in the U.S.A. where such accommodations are much more readily available. Besides, if Mexico was indeed "the place," where would fear-driven, travel-challenged Ennis have obtained such information? Oh, yes. Childress is over 965 km (600 miles) from Juarez.

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 25 February 2014

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 22 53



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 22 53

Location: Calgary, AB, 805 24th Avenue SE

GPS: 51d 1m 54.30s -114d 2m 36.54s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Alley

Travel Directions:

East of Stampede Park, behind the Ramsay Design Center.

Go east on 9th Avenue SE, cross the bridge, turn right on 8th Street SE (also known as "Spiller Road SE"), then turn left on 24th Avenue SE to 805. Note: The red building opposite the alley has been demolished.

Remarks:

Just how did esteemed director of photography Rodrigo Prieto end up playing Jack's Mexican hustler? "I was starting to light the scene and Ang said he wanted to ask a big favor," recalls the cinematographer. (Lee, who explains that the actor originally cast turned out to be too short, notes, "Rodrigo will do anything for a director, including putting himself in a dark alley!") Prieto continues, "They whisked me off to hair and makeup and wardrobe, and God, it was horrible." [1]

Quotation:

"Señor?"

[1] American Cinematographer, January 2006, page 66.

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 25 February 2014

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 23 30



DVD capture



Photo courtesy Paul Carson.

DVD Time Code = 01 23 30

Location: Calgary, AB, Now-demolished house near Elbow and Glenmore

GPS: 50d 59m 41s -114d 5m 20s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Thanksgiving

Travel Directions:

From downtown Calgary, south on Macleod Trail, west (right) on Elbow to Glenmore.

Remarks:

A Calgary road widening project gave the filmmakers a “candy store” of 15 empty condemned houses from which to pick the Twist Thanksgiving scene location. This one, with its adjoining dining and living rooms, worked beautifully. Sadly, it was claimed by the wrecking ball soon after production was completed.

Quotation:

“Sit down, you old son of a bitch!”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 26 01



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 26 01

Location: Calgary, AB, 315 Sharon Avenue SW

GPS: 51d 2m 30s -114d 6m 11s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Monroe's House (Interior)

Travel Directions:

In Calgary, from 17th St. SW turn left onto 11th Ave. SW, proceed 0.2 km and turn left on 18th St. SW, go 0.2 km to a "Y" intersection, turning left onto Sharon Ave. Site is 0.1 km on the right.

Remarks:

The Schwab / Moriarity home in the Scarboro neighborhood of Calgary provided a great "retro" setting that contrasted perfectly with the post-modern decor of Lureen and Jack's home.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property.

Quotation:

"Daddy, tell about when you rode broncs in the rodeo."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 26 33



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 26 33

Location: Calgary, AB, 315 Sharon Avenue SW

GPS: 51d 2m 30s -114d 6m 11s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Monroe's House (Interior)

Travel Directions:

In Calgary, from 17th St. SW turn left onto 11th Ave. SW, proceed 0.2 km and turn left on 18th St. SW, go 0.2 km to a "Y" intersection, turning left onto Sharon Ave. Site is 0.1 km on the right.

Remarks:

Here we come to the last of Alma's three sinks. This kitchen features far nicer appliances and fixtures than she found at the Lonesome Ranch and the Laundry Apartment, but she was in no mood to celebrate.

Having learned from the best, it was Alma's turn to deliver her own sucker punch.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property.

Quotation:

"Jack Twist? Jack Nasty! You didn't go up there to fish."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 28 42



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 28 42

Location: Calgary, AB, 913 18th Avenue NW

GPS: 51d 4m 7.44s -114d 4m 55.74s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Monroe's House (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

Near the corner of 9th Street NW and 18th Avenue NW, just northwest of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary's Mount Pleasant neighborhood.

Remarks:

Ennis stormed out of this wood-frame Mount Pleasant house that snowy Thanksgiving night and years later returned to pick up insightful Alma, Jr. Do not bother knocking; this is not the building used for the chilling interior scenes, which were filmed in a Scarboro home south of here.

Why were different houses used for the exterior and interior shots of Monroe and Alma's home? We do not know. Some buildings in the film (the Signal Bar and Newsome Farm Equipment, for instance) were used for both interior and exterior scenes. Other scenes, such as this one and the Childress Dance Hall, use entirely different interior and exterior locations.

One possible explanation is that unlike the house used for the interior shots, this building has a covered front porch which gave Alma Jr. a place to wait outside for her father later in the film. It seems that Ennis was reluctant to go back inside after his Thanksgiving quarrel with Alma.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property.

Quotation:

"Bye, Daddy."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 25 February 2014

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 28 47



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 28 47

Location: Blackie, AB, Railway Avenue

GPS: 50d 36m 23.16s -113d 37m 22.50s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Riverton Thanksgiving (Fight) Bar

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 23, take Hwy 799 north to Township Road 192. Site is near the corner of Railway Avenue and Aberdeen Street.

Remarks:

Though some viewers of the film are offended by the initial "FNIT" (First Night In Tent) scene, the movie's real obscenity lies in its carefully crafted bookend, set on the snowy streets of Riverton. Here, in lieu of passion, it is self-loathing and fear that propel the intense man-on-man action. The consequence is both unnatural and unbearable.

The bar building is a former hardware store. Though the neon signs of the film are gone (at least one was post period, anyway), it stands as a powerful reminder of the rage and pain Ennis suffered off the mountain. See:

<http://ca.epodunk.com/profiles/alberta/blackie/2003434.html>

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 14 - Don't Fool Me - 01 28 58



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 28 58

Location: Blackie, AB, Railway Avenue

GPS: 50d 36m 23.16s -113d 37m 22.50s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Riverton Thanksgiving (Fight) Bar

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 23, take Hwy 799 north to Township Road 192. Site is near the corner of Railway Avenue and Aberdeen Street.

Remarks:

It is widely reported that when making this scene, Heath Ledger insisted on actually being hit by veteran stunt actor Ken Zilka. (Similarly, he pushed doubles aside to film the Diving Cliff scene and parts of the Twist Ranch scene.) But few are aware that Ledger accidentally broke Zilka's nose in the melee.

In a gesture reflecting the profound commitment that the cast and crew felt toward this project, Zilka told no one of his injury until the filming of the scene was completed, thereby allowing the production to proceed on schedule.

Quotation:

"Hey, asshole, watch where you're goin'!"

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 29 35



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 29 35

Location: Hwy 742, Mount Smuts and The Fist

GPS: 50d 48m 42.18s -115d 19m 37.26s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Three Mountains / The Fist

Travel Directions:

Three Mountains / The Fist is on Hwy 742, 39.5 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 3.0 km north of “Gonna Snow” Lake. The formations are to the right (west) behind the Smuts Creek (Jump Creek) crossing.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 “Hwy 1A - Canmore.” Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the “T” intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful “Kananaskis Country” signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

Remarks:

The Fist forms the centerpiece of this breathtaking mountain group. Its neighbor to the left is Mount Smuts. These are among the most familiar formations in the Spray Range, which straddles the Alberta / British Columbia border. Mount Smuts is among the region’s most notoriously difficult climbs. Note the lovely creek (Smuts Creek) that flows under Hwy 742. See:

<http://www.peakfinder.com/peakfinder.ASP?PeakName=Mount+Smuts>

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/peter-lougheed.aspx>

A much-celebrated statesman, lawyer, soldier, politician, philosopher, and scientist, Jan Smuts was a general in the Boer War, prime minister of South Africa, founder of the League of Nations, author of the Preamble of the United Nations charter, and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The following is extracted from a speech Smuts delivered on Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa, in 1923:

THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain is not merely something externally sublime. It has a great historical and spiritual meaning for us. It stands for us as the ladder of life. Nay, more, it is the great ladder of the soul, and in a curious way the source of religion. From it came the Law, from it came the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount. We may truly say that the highest religion is the Religion of the Mountain.

What is that religion? When we reach the mountain summits we leave behind us all the things that weigh heavily down below on our body and our spirit. We leave behind a feeling of weakness and depression; we feel a new freedom, a great exhilaration, an exaltation of the body no less than of the spirit. We feel a great joy.

The Religion of the Mountain is in reality the religion of joy, of the release of the soul from the things that weigh it down and fill it with a sense of weariness, sorrow and defeat. The religion of joy realizes the freedom of the soul, the soul's kinship to the great creative spirit, and its dominance over all the things of sense. As the body has escaped from the over-weight and depression of the sea, so the soul must be released from all sense of weariness, weakness and depression arising from the fret, worry and friction of our daily lives. We must feel that we are above it all, that the soul is essentially free, and in freedom realizes the joy of living.

We must fill our daily lives with the spirit of joy and delight. We must carry this spirit into our daily lives and tasks. We must perform our work not grudgingly and as a burden imposed upon, but in a spirit of cheerfulness, goodwill and delight in it. Not only on the mountain summits of life, not only on the heights of success and achievement, but down in the deep valleys of drudgery, of anxiety and defeat, we must cultivate the great spirit of joyous freedom and upliftment of the soul.

We must practice the Religion of the Mountain down in the valleys also.

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 29 44



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 29 44

Location: Hwy 742, Smuts Creek

GPS: 50d 48m 42.18s -115d 19m 37.26s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jump Creek

Travel Directions:

Jump Creek (Smuts Creek) is on the west side of Hwy 742, 39.5 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 3.0 km north of “Gonna Snow” Lake, in front of Mount Smuts and The Fist.

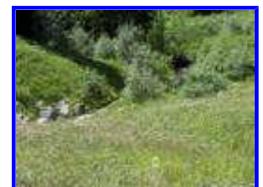
To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 “Hwy 1A - Canmore.” Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the “T” intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful “Kananaskis Country” signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

Remarks:

This is one of the most artful pans of the film and its subject is entirely worthy. Lee fans our flaming emotions ruthlessly, positioning this welcome moment of serenity immediately after the tumultuous Thanksgiving scenes. Santaolalla’s “Riding Horses” completes our emotional transformation which, like everything up on Brokeback, is short lived. See:

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/peter-lougheed.aspx>

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 29 47



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 29 47

Location: Hwy 742, 2.1 km south of Goat Creek Picnic Area

GPS: 51d 2m 39s -115d 24m 57s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Riding Ridge #2

Travel Directions:

The Riding Ridge is near the northern end of Spray Valley Provincial Park, off Hwy 742, 9.4 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 26.1 km north of Mule Hill (Rummel Creek). The site is to the west.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 “Hwy 1A - Canmore.” Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the “T” intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful “Kananaskis Country” signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

Remarks:

Annie Proulx was quite specific in her story; Ennis and Jack never returned to *Brokeback*. [1] That experience, that memory, far more precious than any other, was too special for them to risk disturbing.

Perhaps by accident, or possibly by design, the filmmakers brought the men back some 12 years later to the *Brokeback* location where young Ennis had gone to meet the Basque and order soup. Their lives now, far more complicated, far less blissful.

[1] *Brokeback Mountain - Story to Screenplay* by Annie Proulx, Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (Scribner) ISBN-13: 978-0-7432-9416-4, page 17.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 29 55



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 29 55

Location: Hwy 742, Spillway Lake

GPS: 50d 41m 54.78s -115d 8m 5.82s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Riding Lake

Travel Directions:

The Riding Lake (Spillway Lake) is at the southern end of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. It is on the west side of Hwy 742, 59.7 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 2.4 km north of the Kananaskis Lakes Road intersection.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 "Hwy 1A - Canmore." Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the "T" intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful "Kananaskis Country" signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

Remarks:

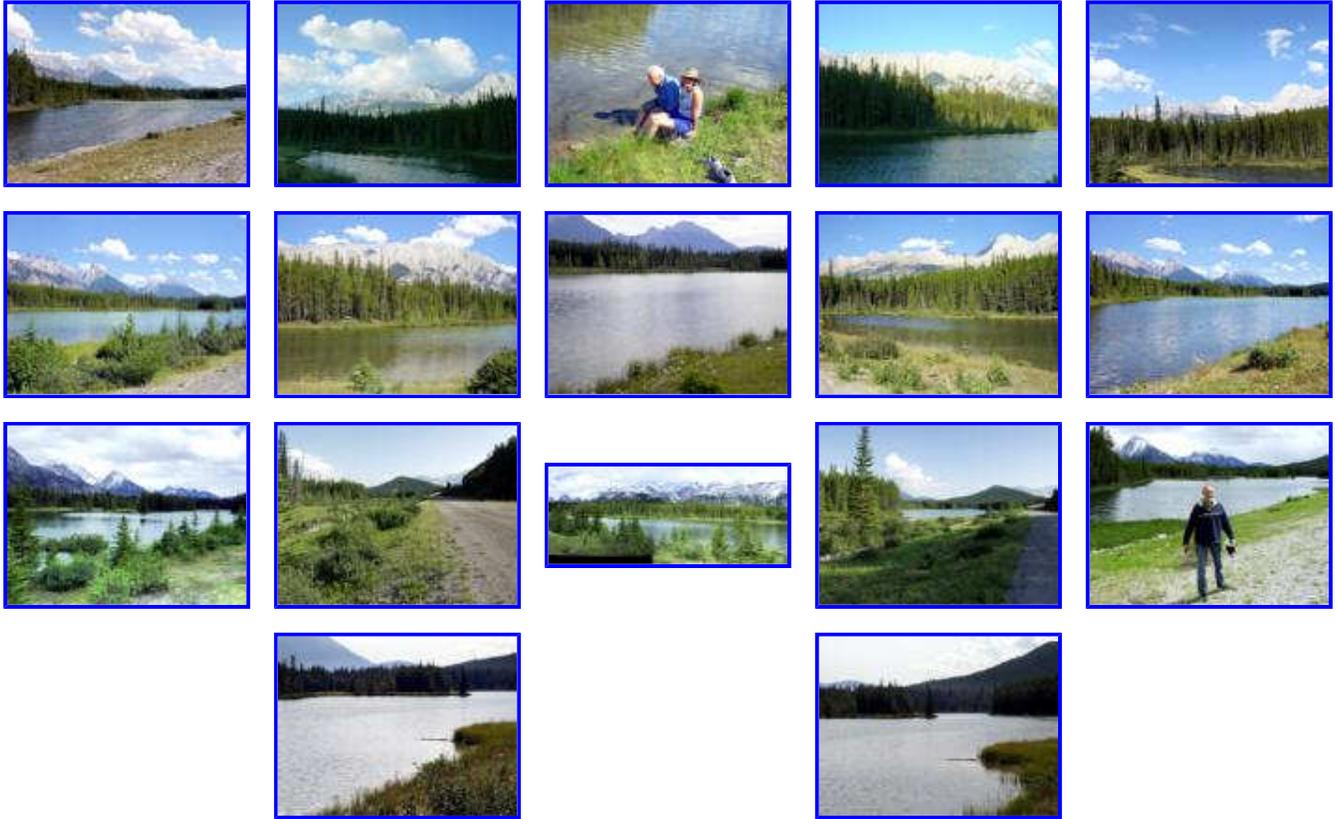
A serene setting for Ennis and Jack's peaceful horseback ride, this small lake is one of the Lower Kananaskis Lakes. See:

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/peter-lougheed.aspx>

Just 0.2 km to the north you will find the Mountain Highway site (see Chapter 12, [01 09 19](#)).

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 30 01



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 30 01

Location: Hwy 66, Elbow Falls Day Use Area

GPS: 50d 52m 1s -114d 47m 2s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Riding in the River

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Exit 161A “Bragg Creek Rd / Hwy 22.” Go south on Hwy 22 approximately 17.4 km to the 4-way stop in Bragg Creek. (Do not follow the “Bragg Creek West” sign.) Turn left at the 4-way stop (continue on Hwy 22) and go 3.4 km to the “T” intersection of Hwy 22 and Hwy 66. Turn right (west) onto Hwy 66 and go approximately 18.4 km to the Elbow Falls Day Use Area in Bragg Creek Provincial Park. As you enter the parking area, the site is to the immediate right in the most upstream portion of the Area. Take the paved path on the right just after the guard rail, pass the gate, and turn right onto the narrower path. Stay to the right and walk to the river past the small picnic areas. The site is on the opposite side of the river, across from the location where the “Sweet Life” scene was filmed, and just a little downstream. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see “Hike to ‘Sweet Life’ Riverside” in **Albums**. See also:

<http://www.braggcreek.ca/kananaskis/elbowriver.htm>

Remarks:

Serene and at perfect peace with nature, the men ride in the deep, rapidly flowing water of Alberta’s Elbow River. Unlike the other shots in the idyllic “post-Thanksgiving montage,” this one features the real things; doubles were not used in this scene.

The movie was filmed here in late June. Bear in mind that the Elbow is a dynamically changing river, one that is constantly re-sculpting its gravel shoals and banks throughout the year. The visibility of specific features (rocks, gravel bars, etc.) may depend greatly on the time of year that you are here. Trees and rock ledges may be your best indicators of the specific movie locations in this area.

Important:

Consult with wardens and take suitable precautions in Off-Highway Vehicle areas.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 30 12



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 30 12

Location: Hwy 66, Elbow Falls Day Use Area

GPS: 50d 52m 1.80s -114d 47m 1.98s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "Maybe Texas" Riverside

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Exit 161A "Bragg Creek Rd / Hwy 22." Go south on Hwy 22 approximately 17.4 km to the 4-way stop in Bragg Creek. (Do not follow the "Bragg Creek West" sign.) Turn left at the 4-way stop (continue on Hwy 22) and go 3.4 km to the "T" intersection of Hwy 22 and Hwy 66. Turn right (west) onto Hwy 66 and go approximately 18.4 km to the Elbow Falls Day Use Area in Bragg Creek Provincial Park. As you enter, the site is to the immediate right in the most upstream portion of the Area. Take the paved path on the right just after the guard rail, pass the gate, and turn right onto the narrower path. Stay to the right and walk to the river past the small picnic areas. The site is on the opposite side of the river, across from the location where the "Sweet Life" scene was filmed. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to 'Sweet Life' Riverside" in **Albums**. See also:

<http://www.braggcreek.ca/kananaskis/elbowriver.htm>

Remarks:

Jack had been rebuffed many times before they returned to this scenic spot (it is very close to the location of the "Sweet Life" scene). Nevertheless, when the opportunity presented itself, he gently suggested "Maybe Texas," but the answer was the same as it always was, and always would be.

While you are here, follow the path downriver to gorgeous Elbow Falls, one of Alberta's most scenic spots. It is a testament to the filmmakers' passion for the *Brokeback* story that for the dialog scenes they consistently resisted some of the most stunning scenery imaginable to keep the focus on the actors and their words.

The movie was filmed here in late June. Bear in mind that the Elbow is a dynamically changing river, one that is constantly re-sculpting its gravel shoals and banks throughout the year. The visibility of specific features (rocks, gravel bars, etc.) may depend greatly on the time of year that you are here. Trees and rock ledges may be your best indicators of the specific movie locations in this area.

Important:

Consult with wardens and take suitable precautions in Off-Highway Vehicle areas.

Quotation:

“You ever get the feelin’, I don’t know, uh, when you’re in town and someone looks at you, suspicious, like he knows?”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 25 March 2014

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 30 26



DVD capture *



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 30 26

Location: Hwy 66, Elbow Falls Day Use Area

GPS: 50d 52m 1s -114d 47m 4s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "Maybe Texas" Riverside

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Exit 161A "Bragg Creek Rd / Hwy 22." Go south on Hwy 22 approximately 17.4 km to the 4-way stop in Bragg Creek. (Do not follow the "Bragg Creek West" sign.) Turn left at the 4-way stop (continue on Hwy 22) and go 3.4 km to the "T" intersection of Hwy 22 and Hwy 66. Turn right (west) onto Hwy 66 and go approximately 18.4 km to the Elbow Falls Day Use Area in Bragg Creek Provincial Park. As you enter, the site is to the immediate right in the most upstream portion of the Area. Take the paved path on the right just after the guard rail, pass the gate, and turn right onto the narrower path. Stay to the right and walk to the river past the small picnic areas. The site is on the gravel bar in the middle of the river, just upstream from the location where the "Sweet Life" scene was filmed. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to 'Sweet Life' Riverside" in **Albums**. See also:

<http://www.braggcreek.ca/kananaskis/elbowriver.htm>

Remarks:

This uppermost (western) end of the Elbow Creek Day Use Area has been subject to violent, disfiguring flooding, making it a particularly suitable place for Ennis to reveal a bit of his paranoia.

Despite the fact that 14 years have passed since their *Brokeback* summer, neither man has learned to communicate honestly, intimately with the other. Though, as Alma had figured, they "didn't go up there to fish," they do sound much more like fishin' buddies than lovers.

The movie was filmed here in late June. Bear in mind that the Elbow is a dynamically changing river, one that is constantly re-sculpting its gravel shoals and banks throughout the year. The visibility of specific features (rocks, gravel bars, etc.) may depend greatly on the time of year that you are here. Trees and rock ledges may be your best indicators of the specific movie locations in this area.

Important:

Consult with wardens and take suitable precautions in Off-Highway Vehicle areas. Depending upon river conditions it may not be possible to safely reach the gravel bar. If you wish to try, go upstream

toward the bend in the river and look for a safe, shallow place to cross over. Always consult with wardens before attempting to cross the river. Wear protective footgear and use walking sticks.

Quotation:

“Well, maybe you oughta get out of there, you know? Find yourself someplace different. Maybe Texas.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 31 59



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 31 59

Location: Hwy 66, Elbow Falls Day Use Area

GPS: 50d 52m 2s -114d 47m 3s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "Maybe Texas" Riverside

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Exit 161A "Bragg Creek Rd / Hwy 22." Go south on Hwy 22 approximately 17.4 km to the 4-way stop in Bragg Creek. (Do not follow the "Bragg Creek West" sign.) Turn left at the 4-way stop (continue on Hwy 22) and go 3.4 km to the "T" intersection of Hwy 22 and Hwy 66. Turn right (west) onto Hwy 66 and go approximately 18.4 km to the Elbow Falls Day Use Area in Bragg Creek Provincial Park. As you enter, the site is to the immediate right in the most upstream portion of the Area. Take the paved path on the right just after the guard rail, pass the gate, and turn right onto the narrower path. Stay to the right and walk to the river past the small picnic areas. The site is on the gravel bar in the middle of the river, just upstream from the location where the "Sweet Life" scene was filmed. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to 'Sweet Life' Riverside" in **Albums**. See also:

<http://www.braggcreek.ca/kananaskis/elbowriver.htm>

Remarks:

Some of the shots in this scene were taken from the opposite side of the Elbow River in the McLean Creek Off-Highway Vehicle Zone. This area was so mired in deep, viscous mud that we dared not attempt it, even in our 4WD vehicle, but those who know off-road vehicles and do not mind getting very, very dirty might enjoy this vantage point. See:

<http://www.braggcreek.ca/kananaskis/outdoor.htm>

The movie was filmed here in late June. Bear in mind that the Elbow is a dynamically changing river, one that is constantly re-sculpting its gravel shoals and banks throughout the year. The visibility of specific features (rocks, gravel bars, etc.) may depend greatly on the time of year that you are here. Trees and rock ledges may be your best indicators of the specific movie locations in this area.

Important:

Consult with wardens and take suitable precautions in Off-Highway Vehicle areas. Depending upon river conditions, it may not be possible to safely reach the gravel bar. If you wish to try, go upstream

toward the bend in the river and look for a safe, shallow place to cross over. Always consult with wardens before attempting to cross the river. Wear protective footgear and use walking sticks.

Quotation:

“Aw, go to hell, Ennis del Mar. You want to live your miserable fuckin’ life, go right ahead.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 24 April 2011

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 32 15



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 32 15

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Queen's Hotel, 207 24th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 32.46s -113d 24m 29.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Cassie's Bar

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Queen's Hotel is on the northeast corner of Haultain Street (2nd Avenue) and Col. Macleod Boulevard (24th Street). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

Of course Cassie found Ennis at the Queen's Hotel! This 1903 sandstone gem witnessed Fort Macleod's "glory years" in which the town briefly served as the commercial hub of SW Canada. Though time has taken its toll on the building, it remains one of Fort Macleod's preeminent historical structures.

Most of the Queen's action is in the first-floor bar. Locals will happily recall (or fabricate) *Brokeback* production stories here, especially if you are buying. More than one bar patron joked that he doubled for Heath Ledger in the sex scenes, though none appeared to be qualified for the job. See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/>

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/visiting/attractions/Main%20Street%20History.cfm>

Quotation:

"Well, earlier today I was castratin' calves."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 32 28



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 32 28

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Queen's Hotel, 207 24th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 32.46s -113d 24m 29.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Cassie's Bar

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Queen's Hotel is on the northeast corner of Haultain Street (2nd Avenue) and Col. Macleod Boulevard (24th Street). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

Cassie Cartwright is the creation of Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. Some would go so far as to say she is a distraction. Others have suggested that a shift in the character of the writing, the subtlety of the plot, and the level of character development is noticeable here.

How well do you know your *Brokeback* screenplay trivia? What is the name of Cassie's bar? Want another one? True or false: The directions call for Cassie to "shake the funk out of her ass"?

Quotation:

"Drunks like you demandin' beer after beer, smokin'. Gets tiresome."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 25 March 2014

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 32 49



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 32 49

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Queen's Hotel, 207 24th Street

GPS: 49d 43m 32.46s -113d 24m 29.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Cassie's Bar

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Queen's Hotel is on the northeast corner of Haultain Street (2nd Avenue) and Col. Macleod Boulevard (24th Street). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

Why can Fort Macleod fairly claim to be "home" to *Brokeback Mountain*? Part of the answer lies in the town's history.

Fort Macleod, like many railroad towns in the western U.S., had a stormy relationship with the railroad. In 1912, following protracted disputes over rights-of-way and freight rates, the railroad moved operations, and approximately 200 jobs, to neighboring Lethbridge. Consequently, with the outbreak of World War I and extending into the 1920s, Fort Macleod experienced a severe depression. By 1924, the town was bankrupt. A bail-out loan by the Provincial government required that the town could not incur debt for any new capital expenditure for 50 years.

As a result of this effective prohibition on growth, virtually no new construction occurred in the town's Main Street district until the early 1970s. Downtown Fort Macleod retains its vintage flavor, a quality that appealed to the producers of *Brokeback*.

Quotation:

"Tryin' to get a foot rub, dummy!"

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 34 11



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 34 11

Location: Calgary, AB, Royal Canadian Legion #1, 116 7th Ave SE

GPS: 51d 2m 48.06s -114d 3m 42.18s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Dance Hall (Interior)

Travel Directions:

Royal Canadian Legion #1, 116 7th Avenue SE, is between Centre St. and 1st Street SE. Pay parking is available in the alley behind the Legion building.

Remarks:

Though a long way from Childress, Texas, this Canadian military-veterans auditorium and dining hall made a stunning setting for Jack and Randall's high-voltage cruising. Bring your copy of the screenplay and have fun counting the entendre in this delicious confection of a scene.

The dining area is open for lunch (check for specials posted outside), but most of the door attendants will admit friendly visitors at other times.

Though recently threatened by the construction of yet another steel and glass office tower for Alberta's booming oil companies, this historically significant building appears to have fended off the wrecking ball, for now. See:

<http://www.abnwtlegion.com/>

If you are in need of an Alberta map for your *Brokeback* trip, nearby [Mapworld](#) at 102 6th Avenue SW (403) 294-0393 is sure to have it. As you face the Legion Building, walk left (west) to Centre St., turn right (north) on Centre and walk to 6th Avenue. Mapworld is on the SW corner.

Calgary's Glenbow Museum (130 9th Avenue SE) falls far short of its potential to tell the story of western Canada's unique history but, for history buffs, is certainly worth a visit. See:

<http://www.glenbow.org/>

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property.

Quotation:

“It’s funny isn’t it? Husbands don’t never seem to want to dance with their wives.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 35 37



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 35 37

Location: Rockyford, AB, CIBC Bank, 201 Main Street

GPS: 51d 14m 1.86s -113d 8m 28.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Dance Hall (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The CIBC Bank stands at the corner of 1st Avenue and Main Street, diagonally across from the Riverton Post Office. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

What Randall and Jack started inside the dance hall (actually some 65 km away in downtown Calgary, AB) continued on the bench outside the CIBC Bank in Rockyford. Awnings, a red carpet, and a bench upgrade magnificently transformed this prairie farmers' bank into Childress' swankiest dance hall.

Of course, you are surrounded by *Brokeback* here. When you have finished admiring the "dance hall," check out the nearby rodeo grounds, JT's Bar, and the Riverton Post Office. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/>

Quotation:

"I mean, why powder your nose just to go home and go to bed?"

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 15 - Suspicious Minds - 01 35 48



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 35 48

Location: Rockyford, AB, CIBC Bank, 201 Main Street

GPS: 51d 14m 1.86s -113d 8m 28.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Dance Hall (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The CIBC Bank stands at the corner of 1st Avenue and Main Street, diagonally across from the Riverton Post Office. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

The Childress Dance Hall exterior scene was filmed in tiny Rockyford at 3 AM. We are told that the CIBC Bank doors needed to be replaced as part of the Dance Hall makeover. Difficulties with the stubborn door hardware made this an all-night process.

The real problems, though, are in the scene itself, which is steeped in *Brokeback* ambiguity. Jack asks why women powder their noses “just to go home and go to bed.” Is this Texas rancher small talk or is it a test? If it is a test, Jack’s approach has grown considerably more subtle since 1963, and Randall flunks. A moment later, a far less artful Randall says “fish some. Get away, you know?” and all hearts race. Is Jack open to his suggestion? Is he feeling intense pain? Or perhaps both?

Quotation:

“Drink a little whiskey, fish some. Get away, you know?”

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 29 April 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 40 37



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 40 37

Location: Hwy 742, Burstall Pass Parking Area

GPS: 50d 47m 29.82s -115d 18m 17.76s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "Gonna Snow" Lake

Travel Directions:

"Gonna Snow" Lake is on Hwy 742, 42.5 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 6.0 km north of Jack Ascending. Use the Burstall Pass Parking Area and walk northwest along Mud Lake to the protrusion.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 "Hwy 1A - Canmore." Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the "T" intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful "Kananaskis Country" signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

Remarks:

Mount Murray looms behind Ennis in this memorable scene as he swigs Old Rose whiskey and trades lies with Jack. The truth is much easier to find in the short sleeping-in-the-tent shot that follows. See:

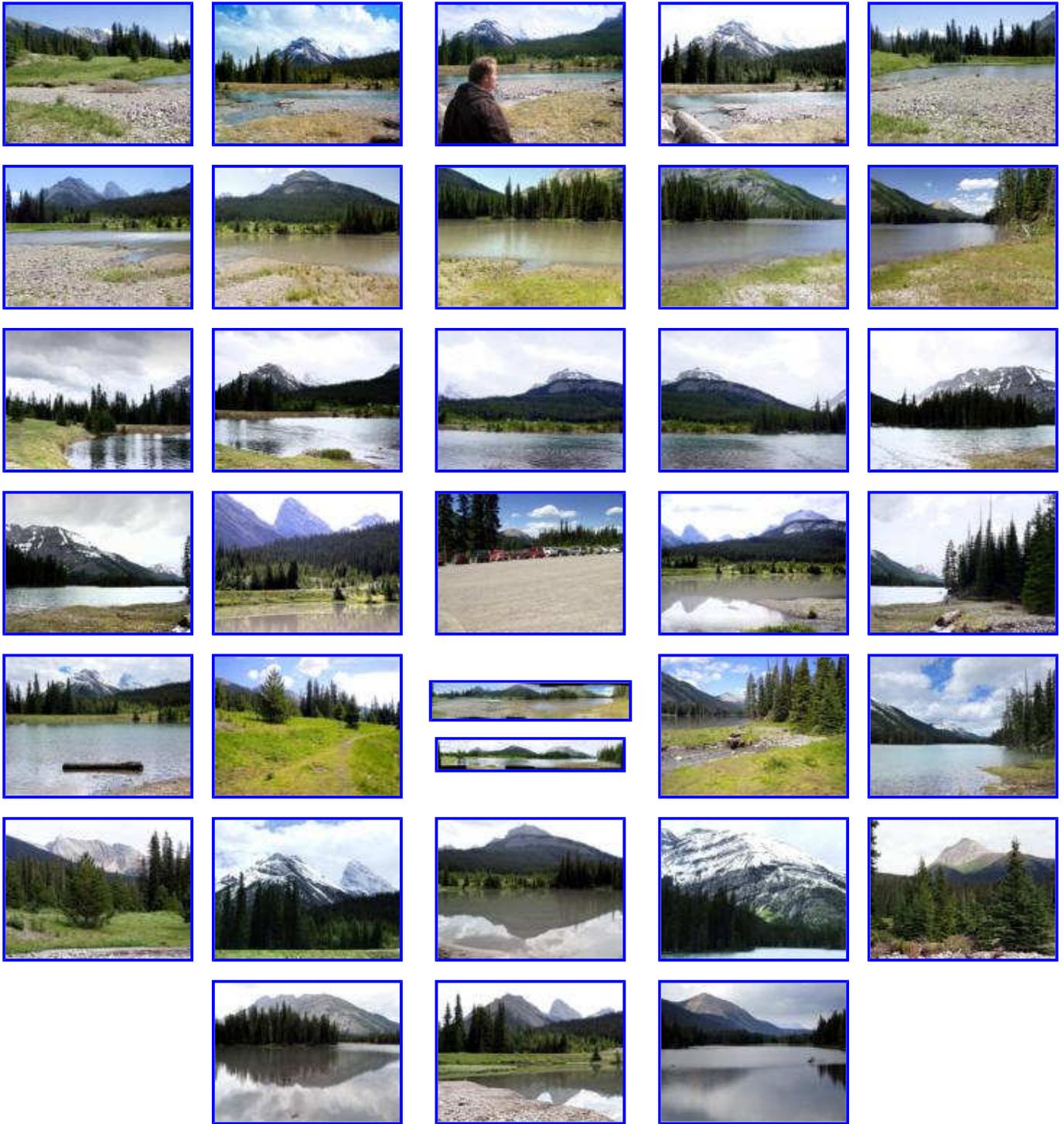
<http://www.peakfinder.com/peakfinder.ASP?PeakName=Mount+Murray>

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/peter-lougheed.aspx>

Quotation:

"Tell you what, the truth is sometimes I miss you so much I can hardly stand it."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 42 27



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 42 27

Location: Kananaskis Lakes Road, Upper Kananaskis Lake

GPS: 50d 36m 36.48s -115d 7m 7.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "I Did Once" Lake

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 40 south 49.9 km (or 0.1 km south of King Creek) to the intersection of Hwy 40 and Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right on Kananaskis Lakes Road and proceed southwest 12.5 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area. (The parking area was paved sometime after June 2008.)

[Alternately, travel to the south end of Hwy 742 / Smith-Dorrien Road where it joins Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right and proceed southwest on Kananaskis Lakes Road 10.3 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area.]

Remarks:

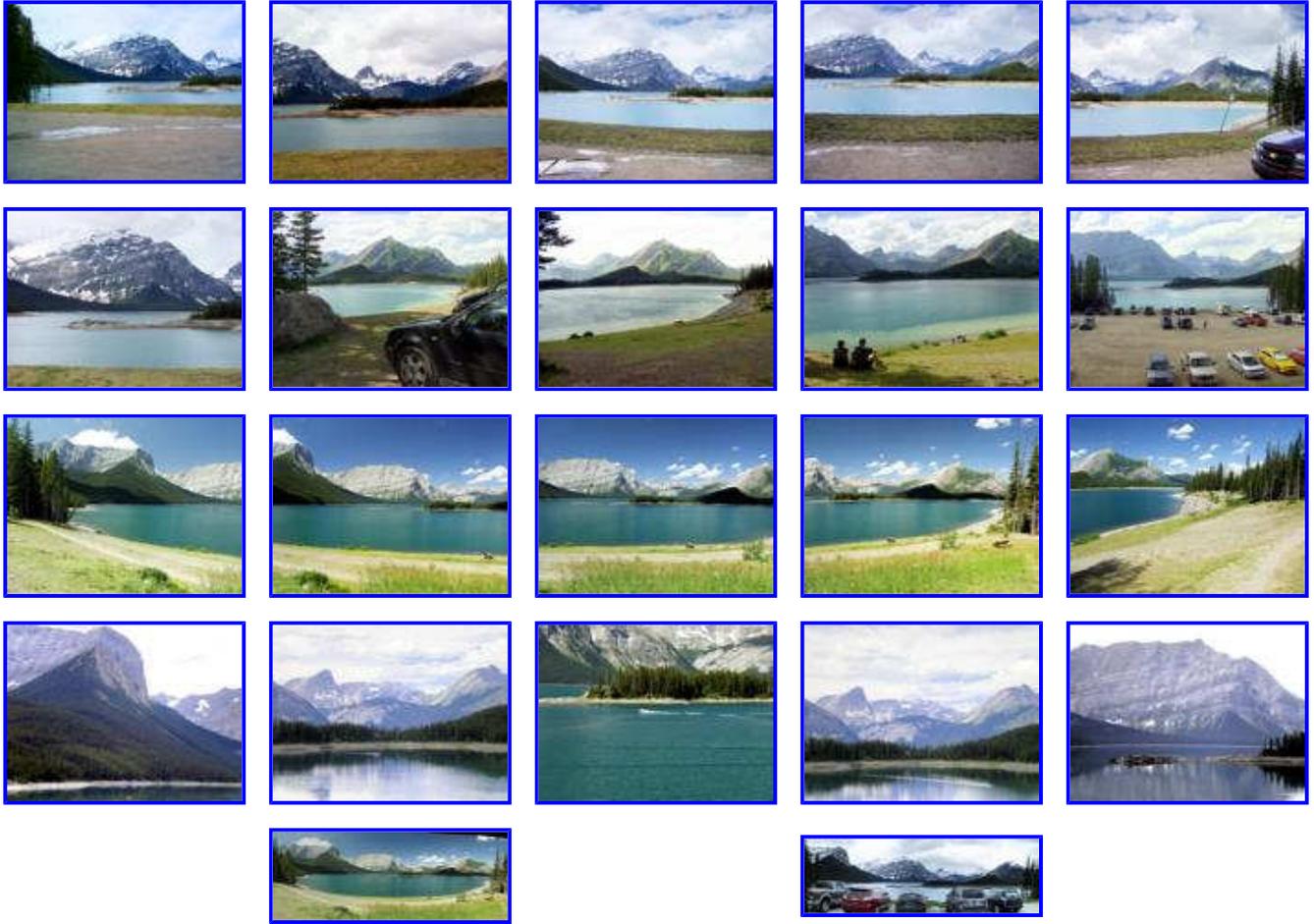
Judging from our mail, this is the most popular of all *Brokeback* locations. How fortunate that Upper Kananaskis Lake is easy to visit and breathtakingly beautiful in its own right. If your travel plans permit, avoid coming here on summer weekends when the area tends to be busy with vacationers, picnickers, and boaters who seem oblivious to this site's *Brokeback* credentials. Weekdays are fine. Sunrise is a particularly lovely, serene time to visit and photograph this special place.

Most *Brokeback* fans are surprised that the area where Ennis and Jack stand is some 25' above the lake level. A steep grassy bank, not visible in the film, separates the spot where Jack stood from the water's edge. Of course, the added elevation affords a much more expansive shot of the mountains and lake, which all agree is the crown jewel of the Kananaskis Lake Group.

Quotation:

"I did once."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 29 April 2014

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 44 42



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 44 42

Location: Kananaskis Lakes Road, Upper Kananaskis Lake

GPS: 50d 36m 36.48s -115d 7m 7.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "I Did Once" Lake

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 40 south 49.9 km (or 0.1 km south of King Creek) to the intersection of Hwy 40 and Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right on Kananaskis Lakes Road and proceed southwest 12.5 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area. (The parking area was paved sometime after June 2008.)

[Alternately, travel to the south end of Hwy 742 / Smith-Dorrien Road where it joins Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right and proceed southwest on Kananaskis Lakes Road 10.3 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area.]

Remarks:

"So what we got now is Brokeback Mountain. Everything's built on that," Jack proclaims as he points to Mount Lyautey, one of at least five different "Brokeback Mountains" used in the film. No visit to this site is complete without rereading (or if you are really in deep, reciting) the remarkable dialog from Ennis and Jack's last scene together. When you are finished, drive off via that same sad, curving road that Ennis used. See:

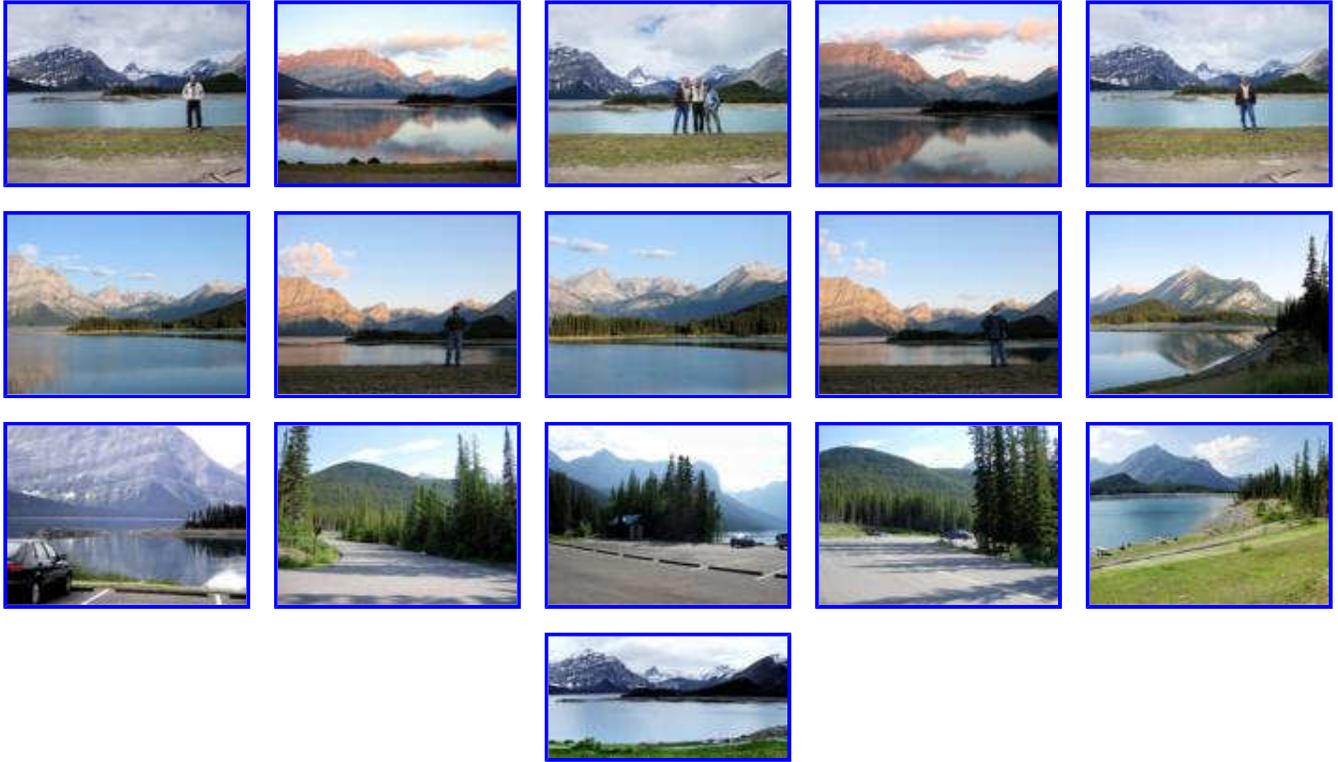
<http://www.peakfinder.com/peakfinder.ASP?Peakname=Mount+Lyautey>

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/peter-lougheed.aspx>

Quotation:

"Hell yes, I been to Mexico. Is that a fuckin' problem?"

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 15 March 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 48 15



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 48 15

Location: Kananaskis Lakes Road, Upper Kananaskis Lake

GPS: 50d 36m 36.48s -115d 7m 7.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "I Did Once" Lake

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 40 south 49.9 km (or 0.1 km south of King Creek) to the intersection of Hwy 40 and Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right on Kananaskis Lakes Road and proceed southwest 12.5 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area. (The parking area was paved sometime after June 2008.)

[Alternately, travel to the south end of Hwy 742 / Smith-Dorrien Road where it joins Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right and proceed southwest on Kananaskis Lakes Road 10.3 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area.]

Remarks:

What began as a warm handshake outside of Joe Aguirre's ugly trailer 17 years earlier ends as a tearful embrace at one of the most beautiful spots imaginable. Here is the place where an innocent young love finally relented to the twin poisons of fear and hate.

As you gaze upon this spot, consider the poisons in your own life and your own relationships. How did they get there? Why are they still there?

Quotation:

"It's all right. It's all right ... damn you, Ennis."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 48 49



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 48 49

Location: Hwy 742, Goat Creek

GPS: 51d 3m 35.52s -115d 25m 50.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Flashback

Travel Directions:

The site of Jack's Flashback (Campsite #2) is at the northern end of Spray Valley Provincial Park, off Hwy 742, 7.3 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 2.1 km north of the Riding Ridge. The easiest way to access the site is to follow Hwy 742 and park at the Goat Creek Picnic Area. Walk south along Hwy 742 for approximately 200 meters. At the point where the utility lines cross Hwy 742 you will see a gravel road to your right (west). Turn right and follow the gravel road approximately 0.7 km downhill until you reach a clearing. Turn right and continue across the clearing, passing the "Get Goin', Cowboy" Hillside (Fight Hill), to the Dozy Embrace site. If you encounter temporary fencing in this area, go around it to the right. The site is to your left as you approach Goat Creek and the pole bridge. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to Campsite #2" in **Albums**.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 "Hwy 1A - Canmore." Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the "T" intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful "Kananaskis Country" signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

See also:

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/spray-valley/information-facilities/day-use/goat-creek.aspx?id=st-day:8158>

Remarks:

Bring your sweetie and, by all means, stand where they stood and feel the serenity and liberation of this place. Remember the moment, always, and treasure your own dozy embrace, just as Jack did his.

Quotation:

"Nothing marred it, even the knowledge that Ennis would not then embrace him face to face because

he did not want to see nor feel that it was Jack he held.” [1]

[1] *Brokeback Mountain - Story to Screenplay* by Annie Proulx, Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (Scribner) ISBN-13: 978-0-7432-9416-4, page 22.

Pictures of surrounding area:



**For more pictures taken at this location see
DVD Chapter 5, [00 23 28](#), [00 23 39](#), [00 24 09](#), [00 24 14](#), [00 24 16](#), [00 24 22](#);
Chapter 6, [00 29 43](#), [00 29 55](#), [00 29 58](#), [00 31 11](#); Chapter 7, [00 34 34](#), [00 34 53](#).**

Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 48 51



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 48 51

Location: Hwy 742, Goat Creek

GPS: 51d 3m 35.52s -115d 25m 50.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Flashback

Travel Directions:

The site of Jack's Flashback (Campsite #2) is at the northern end of Spray Valley Provincial Park, off Hwy 742, 7.3 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 2.1 km north of the Riding Ridge. The easiest way to access the site is to follow Hwy 742 and park at the Goat Creek Picnic Area. Walk south along Hwy 742 for approximately 200 meters. At the point where the utility lines cross Hwy 742 you will see a gravel road to your right (west). Turn right and follow the gravel road approximately 0.7 km downhill until you reach a clearing. Turn right and continue across the clearing, passing the "Get Goin', Cowboy" Hillside (Fight Hill), to the Dozy Embrace site. If you encounter temporary fencing in this area, go around it to the right. The site is to your left as you approach Goat Creek and the pole bridge. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to Campsite #2" in **Albums**.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 "Hwy 1A - Canmore." Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the "T" intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful "Kananaskis Country" signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

See also:

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/spray-valley/information-facilities/day-use/goat-creek.aspx?id=st-day:8158>

Remarks:

This is a secluded spot, surrounded by mountains. The "Get Goin', Cowboy" Hillside (Fight Hill), the tent area, and the pole bridge are all right here. But it is, of course, what happened here that draws us to it.

A "cairn" is a man-made pile of rocks that marks a site or trail. A cairn marks the spot of the Dozy

Embrace. Add to it if you care to. Another cairn, located atop Moose Mountain 50 km to the southeast, marks the site of the “I Ain’t Queer” scene (see Chapter 6, [00 31 33](#) and [00 31 41](#)).

Quotation:

“Well now, you’re sleepin’ on your feet like a horse.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



For more pictures taken at this location see
DVD Chapter 5, [00 23 28](#), [00 23 39](#), [00 24 09](#), [00 24 14](#), [00 24 16](#), [00 24 22](#);
Chapter 6, [00 29 43](#), [00 29 55](#), [00 29 58](#), [00 31 11](#); Chapter 7, [00 34 34](#), [00 34 53](#).

Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 49 23



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 49 23

Location: Hwy 742, Goat Creek

GPS: 51d 3m 35.52s -115d 25m 50.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Flashback

Travel Directions:

The site of Jack's Flashback (Campsite #2) is at the northern end of Spray Valley Provincial Park, off Hwy 742, 7.3 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 2.1 km north of the Riding Ridge. The easiest way to access the site is to follow Hwy 742 and park at the Goat Creek Picnic Area. Walk south along Hwy 742 for approximately 200 meters. At the point where the utility lines cross Hwy 742 you will see a gravel road to your right (west). Turn right and follow the gravel road approximately 0.7 km downhill until you reach a clearing. Turn right and continue across the clearing, passing the "Get Goin', Cowboy" Hillside (Fight Hill), to the Dozy Embrace site. If you encounter temporary fencing in this area, go around it to the right. The site is to your left as you approach Goat Creek and the pole bridge. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to Campsite #2" in **Albums**.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 "Hwy 1A - Canmore." Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the "T" intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful "Kananaskis Country" signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

See also:

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/spray-valley/information-facilities/day-use/goat-creek.aspx?id=st-day:8158>

Remarks:

It is finished. We saw this image an hour-and-a-half earlier in the film, just after the "FNIT" (First Night In Tent) scene (see Chapter 6, [00 29 58](#)). Now, two excruciatingly painful lifetimes later, it forms a fitting benediction to a love that finally succumbed to the forces of fear and hate.

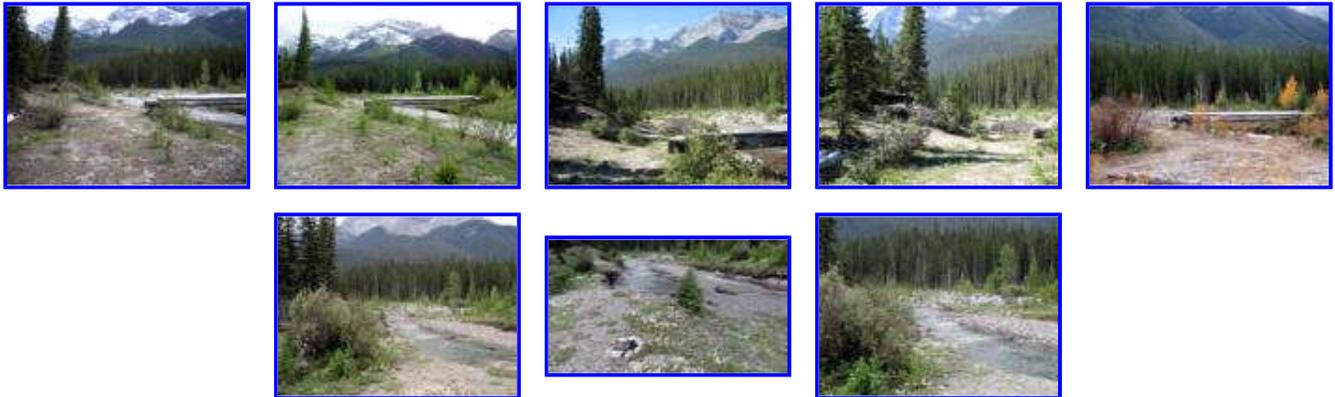
One easily loses track of the number of arrivals and departures in the film. *Brokeback Mountain*

can be viewed as a more or less endless parade of entrances and exits. Its characters drive up, drive off, walk in, walk out, mount, and dismount almost constantly. This departure is different. The blissful Dozy Embrace exit is almost lovely enough to steel us for the crushing exit that follows it.

Quotation:

“I gotta go. See you in the mornin’.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



**For more pictures taken at this location see
DVD Chapter 5, [00 23 28](#), [00 23 39](#), [00 24 09](#), [00 24 14](#), [00 24 16](#), [00 24 22](#);
Chapter 6, [00 29 43](#), [00 29 55](#), [00 29 58](#), [00 31 11](#); Chapter 7, [00 34 34](#), [00 34 53](#).**

Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 49 24



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 49 24

Location: Hwy 742, Goat Creek

GPS: 51d 3m 35.52s -115d 25m 50.70s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Flashback

Travel Directions:

The site of Jack's Flashback (Campsite #2) is at the northern end of Spray Valley Provincial Park, off Hwy 742, 7.3 km south of the Three Sisters Drive intersection in Canmore, and 2.1 km north of the Riding Ridge. The easiest way to access the site is to follow Hwy 742 and park at the Goat Creek Picnic Area. Walk south along Hwy 742 for approximately 200 meters. At the point where the utility lines cross Hwy 742 you will see a gravel road to your right (west). Turn right and follow the gravel road approximately 0.7 km downhill until you reach a clearing. Turn right and continue across the clearing, passing the "Get Goin', Cowboy" Hillside (Fight Hill), to the Dozy Embrace site. If you encounter temporary fencing in this area, go around it to the right. The site is to your left as you approach Goat Creek and the pole bridge. For pictures taken during a hike to this location, see "Hike to Campsite #2" in **Albums**.

To reach Hwy 742 (also known as Spray Lakes Rd. / Smith-Dorrien Rd.): From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), use Exit 91 "Hwy 1A - Canmore." Follow Bow Valley Trail 2.2 km, turn left (northwest) onto Railway Ave. Proceed 0.5 km and turn left (west) at Main St. (also known as 8th St.), go 0.6 km and turn left (south) onto Bridge Rd. (also known as 8th Ave. / Rundle Drive). At the "T" intersection, turn left (south) on Three Sisters Drive, proceed 0.6 km and turn right (west) at Spray Lakes Rd. (also known as Hwy 742). (Or simply follow the helpful "Kananaskis Country" signs throughout Canmore.) See map of [Canmore](#).

See also:

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/spray-valley/information-facilities/day-use/goat-creek.aspx?id=st-day:8158>

Remarks:

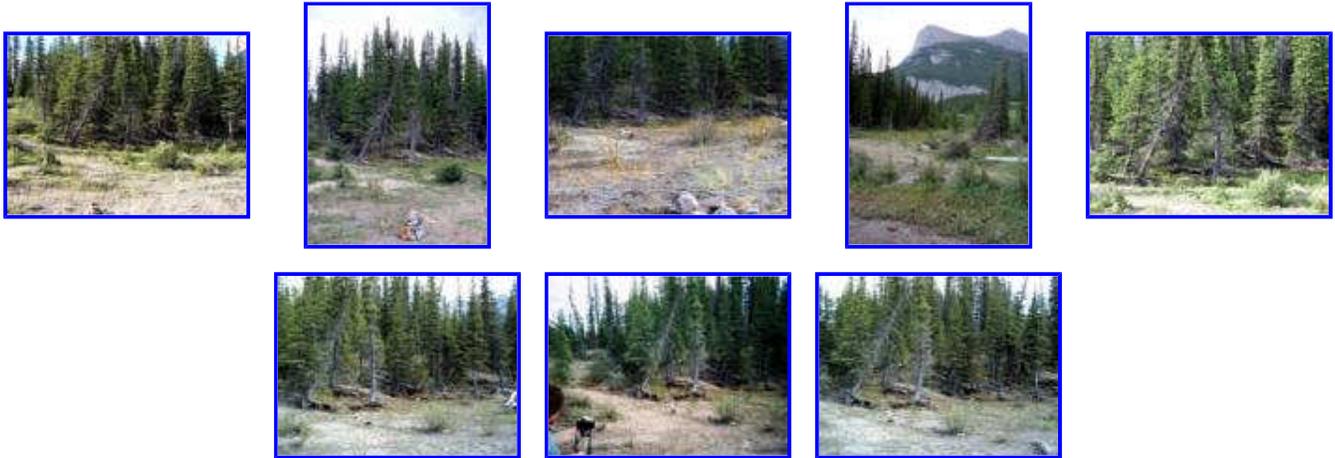
Many (of us) believe that Jake Gyllenhaal's very best acting is done through sublime facial expressions, often citing the shot where Ennis is bathing, "or I might be back," the Jimbo cruise, the reaction to Randall's come-on, and the Dozy Embrace, among others. Each of these gestures is reductionism at its finest. If the story and script are beautifully tight, and they are, Gyllenhaal's powerfully sparse facial gestures more than do justice to them.

Quotation:

“Later, that dozy embrace solidified in his memory as the single moment of artless, charmed happiness in their separate and difficult lives.” [1]

[1] *Brokeback Mountain - Story to Screenplay* by Annie Proulx, Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (Scribner) ISBN-13: 978-0-7432-9416-4, page 22.

Pictures of surrounding area:



**For more pictures taken at this location see
DVD Chapter 5, 00 23 28, 00 23 39, 00 24 09, 00 24 14, 00 24 16, 00 24 22;
Chapter 6, 00 29 43, 00 29 55, 00 29 58, 00 31 11; Chapter 7, 00 34 34, 00 34 53.**

Revised 03 April 2013

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 49 34



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 49 34

Location: Kananaskis Lakes Road, Upper Kananaskis Lake

GPS: 50d 36m 36.48s -115d 7m 7.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "I Did Once" Lake

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 40 south 49.9 km (or 0.1 km south of King Creek) to the intersection of Hwy 40 and Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right on Kananaskis Lakes Road and proceed southwest 12.5 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area. (The parking area was paved sometime after June 2008.)

[Alternately, travel to the south end of Hwy 742 / Smith-Dorrien Road where it joins Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right and proceed southwest on Kananaskis Lakes Road 10.3 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area.]

Remarks:

Is there a gravel road on the planet that has broken as many hearts as this one? We doubt it.

The filmmakers had a problem here. A distracting public restroom stood to the right where the road curves. Sharp-eyed viewers of the film can spot the roof of the restroom through the cluster of staked trees installed by the location crew.

Staked trees were useful in many scenes in the film. They hid an entire road at Mud Lake ("It's gonna snow tonight for sure.") and a path at Goat Creek (Campsite #2). A few discarded staked trees can be found in the woods near Campsites #1 and #2.

Quotation:

"I just can't stand this anymore, Jack."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 16 - Let Me Be - 01 49 37



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 49 37

Location: Kananaskis Lakes Road, Upper Kananaskis Lake

GPS: 50d 36m 36.48s -115d 7m 7.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: "I Did Once" Lake

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 40 south 49.9 km (or 0.1 km south of King Creek) to the intersection of Hwy 40 and Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right on Kananaskis Lakes Road and proceed southwest 12.5 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area. (The parking area was paved sometime after June 2008.)

[Alternately, travel to the south end of Hwy 742 / Smith-Dorrien Road where it joins Kananaskis Lakes Road. Turn right and proceed southwest on Kananaskis Lakes Road 10.3 km. Turn left (south) at "Upper Lake" sign and left again at the "T" intersection to the parking area.]

Remarks:

Jake Gyllenhaal, once asked about Jack Twist's fate, replied famously, "Jack died when Ennis left."

As we leave Jack, it is hard to focus upon anything other than his youthful energy and forceful spirit. He showed Ennis the tireless patience and sensitivity of a man deeply in love. Jack consistently sought the best in life, refusing society's unrelenting urge to accept "beans." Derided, humiliated as a dreamer, a "fuck up," a "pissant," Jack remained proud, hopeful, and strong. Until now.

Quotation:

"I wish I knew how to quit you."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 19 February 2010

Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 49 47



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 49 47

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Java Shop / Greyhound Station, 2302 2nd Avenue

GPS: 49d 43m 29.64s -113d 24m 30.66s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Bus Café

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Java Shop / Greyhound Bus Station is located at 2302 2nd Avenue (Haulton Ave.) near the intersection of 23rd Street (Chief Red Crow Boulevard). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

Sadly, the days when Brokeback pilgrims could enjoy coffee and apple pie at the [Java Shop](#) are now gone. This restaurant, located in the town's Greyhound bus station, served locals and weary travelers for decades before economic pressures finally forced its closure.

Judy Thomas, a Java Shop waitress for more than 20 years and something of a classic in her own right, often told customers, "Every week we get another one in here, 'Is this the same pie Heath Ledger ate?' they always ask. And I go right ahead and tell them, 'It sure is. We been keepin' it for years just waitin' for you to come in and finish it.'" See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/>

Quotation:

"Hey, Ennis del Mar. Where you been?"

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 49 58



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 49 58

Location: Fort Macleod, AB, Java Shop / Greyhound Station, 2302 2nd Avenue

GPS: 49d 43m 29.64s -113d 24m 30.66s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Bus Café

Travel Directions:

Navigation in Fort Macleod is made interesting by the fact that most streets have at least two names. Nonetheless, the town is small enough so that you are never lost. The Java Shop / Greyhound Bus Station is located at 2302 2nd Avenue (Haulton Ave.) near the intersection of 23rd Street (Chief Red Crow Boulevard). See map of [Fort Macleod](#).

See also:

http://www.fortmacleod.com/images/uploads/visit_map.pdf

Remarks:

“Enjoy life, eat out more often,” was the motto of Fort Macleod’s iconic Java Shop. Although Cassie and Ennis did not find much enjoyment here, the Brokeback prop team did get a break at this place. Very little needed to change to turn it back 25 years. The counter candy rack, tables, and chairs used in this scene were all authentic.

Darryl Solly, locations manager for the film, recalls Ang Lee’s initial reaction to the Java Shop. “When we [first] walked in ... we knew this was going to be our diner. Where we’d encounter potential problems, Ang’s reaction was, “Don’t worry about it, this is going to be it; it’s perfect.” He walked around, loved the whole thing - the cafeteria line, everything is stainless steel, you know - fantastic.” Sadly, economic pressures forced the [Java Shop](#) to close in February 2008. See:

<http://www.fortmacleod.com/>

Quotation:

“Yeah, Carl’s nice. He even talks.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 05 March 2010

Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 51 50



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 51 50

Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue

GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Post Office

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Riverton Post Office building is on Main Street at 1st Avenue. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

It was here, on simple postcards, that Ennis wrote “You bet” and later read the word “DECEASED.” Though the neighboring brick structure has been demolished, the Riverton Post Office stands and reminds us of the power small words have to change lives.

Look over your shoulder and see JT’s Bar, and to the left of it the exterior of the Childress Dance Hall. And by all means don’t leave town without seeing the Electra and Childress Rodeo Grounds. They are two blocks away.

Pictures of surrounding area:



For more pictures taken at this location see DVD Chapter 11, 01 01 34, 01 01 52, Chapter 15, 01 35 37, 01 35 48.

Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 51 55



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 51 55

Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue

GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Phone Booth

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Phone Booth site is adjacent to “JT’s Bar,” now “The Pub on Main” (previously Dun Rovens Pub), on Main Street at 1st Avenue, opposite the Riverton Post Office building. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

Ecce Homo. Within a mere half hour of film time, Ennis del Mar suffers Alma’s “Jack Nasty” blow, reads the fateful word “DECEASED,” and learns about “some ranch neighbor a his from down in Texas.” Pain, pain, and more pain.

Quotation:

“Deceased.”

Pictures of surrounding area:





**For more pictures taken at this location see
DVD Chapter 11, [01 01 34](#), [01 01 52](#), Chapter 15, [01 35 37](#), [01 35 48](#).**

Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 52 06



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 52 06

Location: Rockyford, AB, Main Street at 1st Avenue

GPS: 51d 14m 0.78s -113d 8m 28.32s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Phone Booth

Travel Directions:

From Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy), take Hwy 21 north to Township Road 263. Turn right (east) on 263. Rockyford is at the intersection of 263 and Range Road 233. The Phone Booth site is adjacent to "JT's Bar," now "The Pub on Main" (previously Dun Rovens Pub), on Main Street at 1st Avenue, opposite the Riverton Post Office building. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/r05.htm>

Remarks:

The prop phone booth has a story. On the eve of the final Rockyford shooting day, the set crew began looking for the phone booth. It was nowhere to be found. Realizing that they had forgotten to BRING the phone booth, location manager Darryl Solly drove through the night to Calgary, found the phone booth in a warehouse there, strapped it in a truck and sped back to Rockyford, praying that it would not fall out. The phone booth made it, along with an exhausted Solly, in time for the morning's shoot.

From the phone booth spot one can see the Riverton Post Office where Ennis was to first experience joy, and later grief, as well as the exterior of the Childress Dance Hall. See:

<http://www.FindingBrokeback.com/Rockyford/>

Jack and Lureen's parking spot, as well as the Childress and Electra Rodeo Grounds, are two blocks away.

Quotation:

"No ma'am, we was herdin' sheep on Brokeback one summer, back in '63."

Pictures of surrounding area:



**For more pictures taken at this location see
DVD Chapter 11, [01 01 34](#), [01 01 52](#), Chapter 15, [01 35 37](#), [01 35 48](#).**

Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 17 - Return to Sender - 01 53 13



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 53 13

Location: Range Road 283, near Conrich, AB

GPS: 51d 6m 20.46s -113d 50m 31.98s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Murder

Travel Directions:

Calgary's McKnight Boulevard NE, eastbound, becomes 48th Avenue NE and, finally, Township Road 250. The suburb of Conrich is at the intersection of Township Road 250 and Range Road 284. (There is a Gas Plus station at this corner.) Continue east on Township Road 250 1.6 km to Range Road 283 (also known as "Rainbow Road"), turn left on Range Road 283, go 1 km toward the rail tracks but do not cross them. The site is to the left.

Remarks:

Just as there is a great amount of confusion as to how Jack died, there is more than a little bit of misinformation out there about where he died. We chased many false leads before finding this site. Ponder the awful power of fear and hatred as you contemplate this very sad spot.

After tirelessly searching BBM shooting locations for a week, Canadian philanthropist and *Brokeback* truck owner Rob Freeman (see: www.thebrokebacktruck.ca for information) noted that Earl's life ended in "Dorothy," while Jack met his fate on "Rainbow Road." Coincidence, Judy?

One visitor to this solemn location writes, "May the hatred, intolerance and ignorance represented here be banished from the heart and consciousness of humankind, overcome by the higher experiences of love, compassion and understanding."

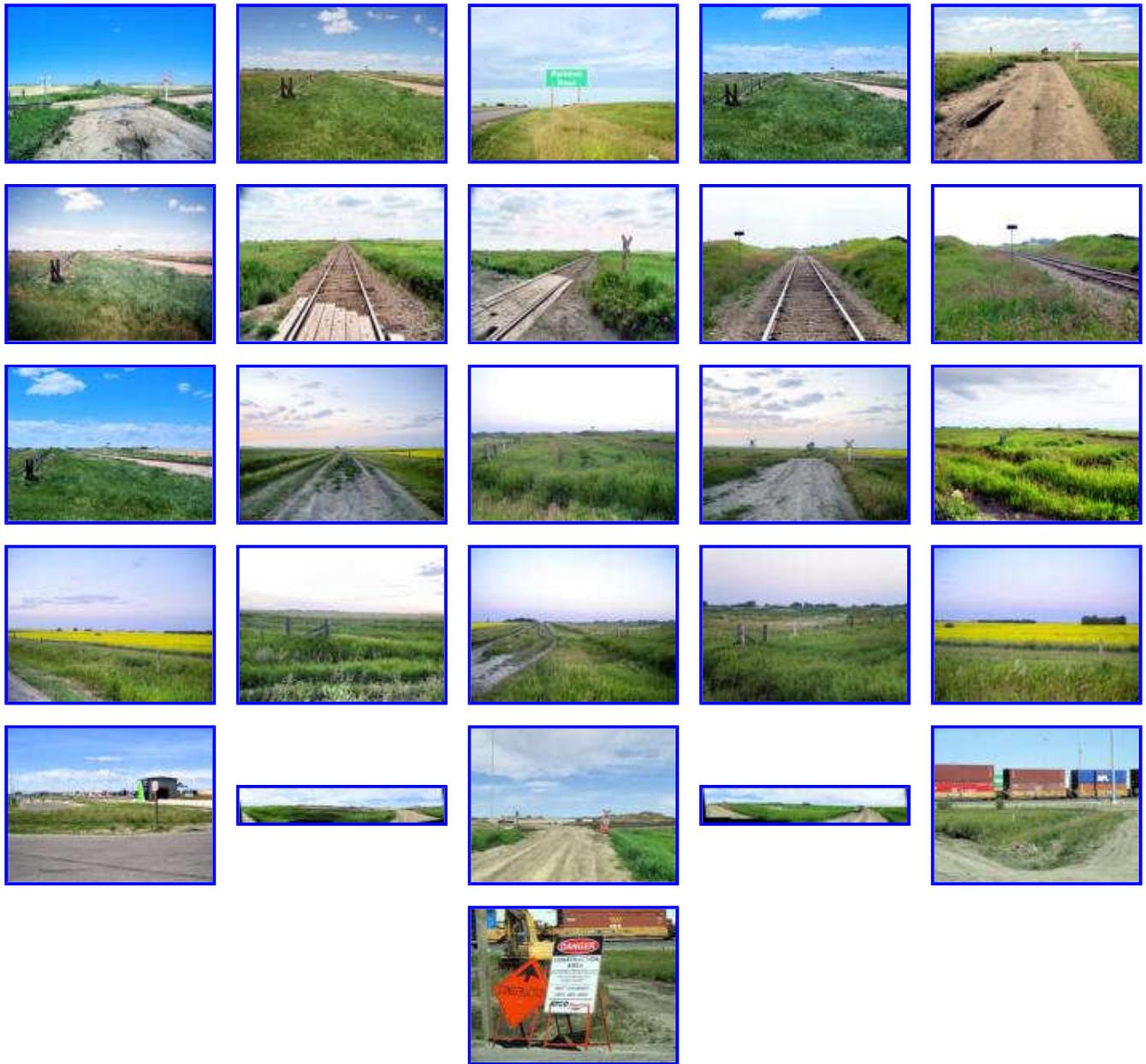
Important:

Range Road 283 is in very poor condition. Depending upon your vehicle, it may be best to park and walk the short distance (about 300 m or 1,000') to the tracks.

Quotation:

"Terrible thing, he was only 39 years old."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 28 May 2015

Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 01 55 24



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 55 24

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Twist Ranch (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown “Grande Ole West Villa Ranch” sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

Welcome to the Twist Ranch. No other *Brokeback* location received the investment of time and money that the production team lavished upon this desolate farmhouse some 80 km NE of Calgary.

This is a well-hidden landmark; indeed the front is completely obscured by a dense thicket of Albertan caragana. Just as Ennis generally did, you will find it most convenient to approach from the rear. The structure, which has faded considerably since the film was made, is boarded up, albeit imperfectly.

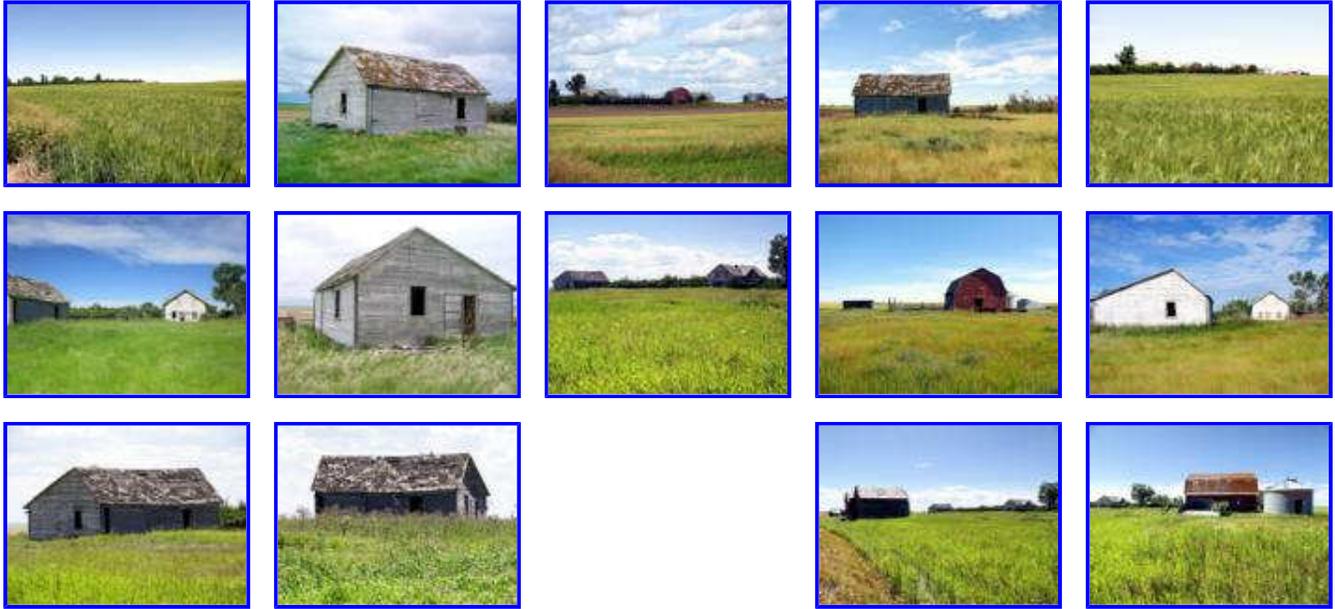
The ranch is located on rural farmland in an area once occupied by Native Blackfoot peoples. They called the region “Clear Running Water.” A deep lake, said to be filled with old Blackfoot arrowheads, is 9 km away. The Canadian Railway established a rail line here in 1883. By 1909, the completion of irrigation canals permitted large scale cultivation of wheat and the area was homesteaded, largely by German families emigrating from Nebraska and Kansas.

The current owner of the house grew up on an adjacent farm. His family acquired the property in the late 1960s.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. **Do not attempt to enter the buildings. They are structurally unsafe.** The buildings have been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 27 June 2015

Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 01 55 27



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 55 27

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Twist Ranch (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown “Grande Ole West Villa Ranch” sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

The owner of the Twist Ranch vividly recalls the commencement of shooting activity at this otherwise desolate and inherently lonely place.

“It was July 20, 2004, when the circus arrived (*circus* is the industry term for the caravan of production vehicles and crew). Twenty or so tractor trailers, barbeques, power generators, cranes, everything you can imagine. More than 100 people, easy. Security was tight; they had to block the highway,” he said, referring to a nearby two lane road.

Before shooting, crews spent months restoring the house which had literally fallen down on itself. Extensive roof and carpentry work was required, the exterior façade and the rooms used in the film were plastered and painted. The green grasses and trees were treated with a desiccant in order to give them a brown / yellow hue. A small cemetery (which can be seen in some promotional footage, but not in the film) was erected to the left (south) side of the house.

“They must have driven that truck up to the house 20 times to get the shot they wanted,” he recalls.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. **Do not attempt to enter the buildings. They are structurally unsafe.** The buildings have been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 27 June 2015

Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 01 55 33



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 55 33

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Twist Ranch (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown “Grande Ole West Villa Ranch” sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

The Twist Ranch house was probably constructed in the 1930s or '40s. It was occupied by the Elmer C. Esslinger family until it was sold in the late 1960s to a nearby farming family.

The house was furnished in fine oak pieces and had the feel of a “prairie mansion.” In addition to the first floor dining room and kitchen featured in the film, there is a large front parlor, a study, and a sewing room. There are four bedrooms upstairs, all similar in size. The house has an unfinished basement, as well.

A neighbor recalls a grandmother Esslinger and two “bachelor” sons, Bill and John. Mrs. Esslinger went to church with neighbors every Sunday. The sons rolled their own cigarettes. There was also a niece, who had a small child.

After the Esslingers sold the house it had a succession of tenants, mostly farm workers. The house fell into ruin during the 1970s.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. Those planning to enter should bring flashlights and be cautious of loose or missing floorboards and railings. The building has been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Quotation:

“A rather thin woman—probably sixty to sixty-five—comes out the door and on to the front porch that stretches across the front of a tiny windbeaten house ...” [1]

[1] *Brokeback Mountain - Story to Screenplay* by Annie Proulx, Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (Scribner) ISBN-13: 978-0-7432-9416-4, page 89.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 20 June 2014

Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 01 55 55



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 55 55

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Twist Kitchen

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown “Grande Ole West Villa Ranch” sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

The cupboards and counters are there, but sadly, Roberta Maxwell is gone. It was here that Jack’s mother became Ennis’s mother. Moms!

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. **Do not attempt to enter the buildings. They are structurally unsafe.** The buildings have been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Quotation:

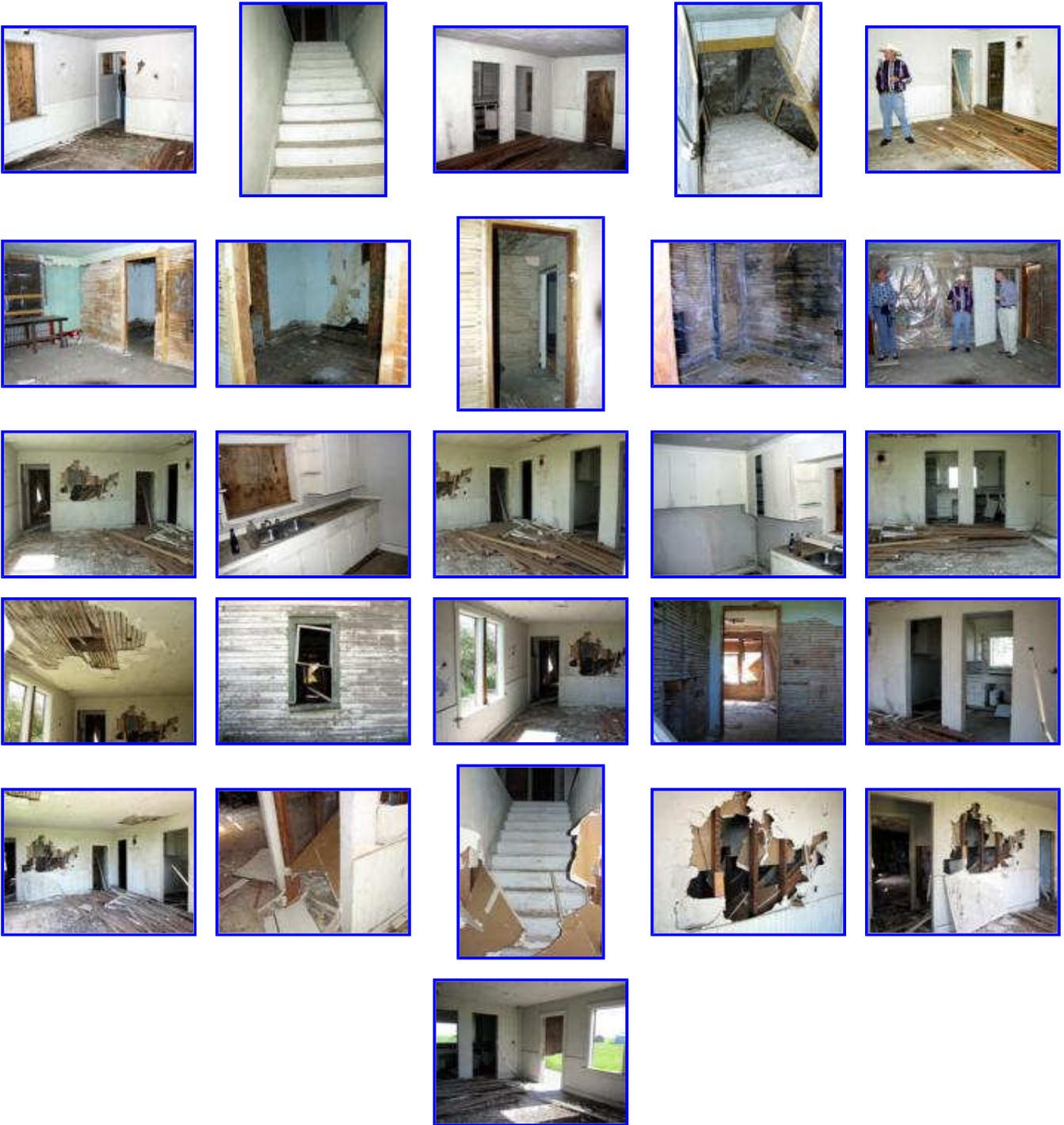
“Want a cup of coffee, don’t you? Piece of cherry cake?”

Pictures of surrounding area:



First Floor
Plan





Revised 20 June 2014

Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 01 59 05



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 01 59 05

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Room

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown "Grande Ole West Villa Ranch" sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

Yes, the sloping ceiling over the bed area, the window, and the radiator are all there. The closet and its secret compartment are mostly intact (the back wall has been removed but is stored nearby). Ennis wept mightily in this room and you will too.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. Those planning to enter should bring flashlights and be cautious of loose or missing floorboards and railings. The building has been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Second Floor
Plan





Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 02 00 20



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 02 00 20

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Jack's Room

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown "Grande Ole West Villa Ranch" sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

Although there was an original closet in the same general location, Jack's closet was reconfigured for the film including, of course, the side compartment. The closet door is now gone; perhaps it is someone's large souvenir. We normally discourage this kind of thing but in this case it seems metaphorically appropriate. So, too, the brown chest of drawers, original to the house, appears to be missing. The rear closet wall has been removed but is stored in the adjacent hallway.

The owner of the house retained the horse and rider figurine from Jack's room. It was originally his and he lent it to the producers, among many other western decor items. The owner's son has the wooden cross from the dining room wall.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. Those planning to enter should bring flashlights and be cautious of loose or missing floorboards and railings. The building has been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Quotation:

"I kept his room like it was when he was a boy. I think he appreciated that. You are welcome to go up to his room, if you want."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 02 02 16



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 02 02 16

Location: Range Road 252, east of Beiseker, AB

GPS: 51d 22m 18.24s -113d 25m 31.08s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Twist Ranch (Exterior)

Travel Directions:

Follow Hwy 9 (also known as Township Road 282) 6.5 km east of Beiseker to Range Road 252 (watch for the brown “Grande Ole West Villa Ranch” sign). Turn right (south) onto Range Road 252, go 1.6 km. The ranch is behind the overgrown thicket on the east (left) side of the road.

Remarks:

The filming of a major motion picture here, “way the hell out in the middle of nowhere,” was understandably a big event. Those on the scene during the shooting process recall many interesting details: the actors arrived in PT Cruisers; great effort was made to avoid including power lines in the shots; every scene was shot and re-shot many times. “They must have folded the shirts in that bag a hundred times,” said someone who was there to watch.

At one point (Actors Guild?) work rules required an end to shooting for the day, but Heath Ledger waived these and shooting continued into the night. Committed to authenticity, Ledger also voluntarily participated in the shooting of Roberta Maxwell’s lines, though a double had been assigned this task.

Important:

Always obtain appropriate permission before entering private property. Those planning to enter should bring flashlights and be cautious of loose or missing floorboards and railings. The building has been the subject of pilferage and vandalism. Please leave all that you find intact out of respect for the history, both real and fictional, of this powerful place.

Quotation:

“Thank you for this.”

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 18 - Crazy Notions - 02 02 30



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 02 02 30

Location: Hwy 22, south of Longview, AB

GPS: 50d 20m 36s -114d 12m 10s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Return from Twist Ranch

Travel Directions:

From Longview, take Hwy 22 south 13 km to the Bar U Ranch. Continue south 9.1 km to 786 Ave. Turn east (left) on 786 Ave., and go approximately 2 km to the curve in the road at the hill. Park and look behind you (south and west). You will see two telephone poles south of an intersection and the access road running north and south behind them.

Remarks:

Yet another “bookend,” this image is virtually identical to the film’s memorable opening shot. Alone, paper bag in hand, an older and much sadder Ennis makes his way back down that mountain road.

Important:

The fence is electrified. Do not touch it.

Pictures of surrounding area:



Revised 23 March 2009

Chapter 19 - The Power of Love - 02 02 50



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 02 02 50

Location: Beiseker, AB, Town Dump

GPS: 51d 22m 55.26s -113d 32m 40.14s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Ennis's Trailer

Travel Directions:

At 1st Avenue and 6th Street, face the Beiseker Village Office (a former Canadian Pacific Railway station), turn south (left) on 1st Avenue and go 0.8 km. Turn right at the "Dump Gate" sign and go 0.3 km. The site is on the right, enclosed by a white wooden fence.

Remarks:

The *Brokeback Mountain* story begins and ends in, of all places, trailers. What remains of Ennis's trailer site is limited to a grassy clearing, the roadway, and the field we see at the movie's powerful conclusion. A white fence surrounds the trailer location to protect this special ground. See:

<http://ca.epodunk.com/profiles/alberta/beiseker/2000191.html>

Locals were not allowed on site during the filming of the movie's conclusion, but they certainly knew something was going on "out by the dump." One group of barn roofers working nearby was told to "quit hammering" whenever the cameras were rolling. That request has a familiar ring to it, doesn't it?

Quotation:

"Troy? Daddy, that was two years ago."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 27 June 2015

Chapter 19 - The Power of Love - 02 03 01



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 02 03 01

Location: Beiseker, AB, Town Dump

GPS: 51d 22m 55.26s -113d 32m 40.14s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Ennis's Trailer

Travel Directions:

At 1st Avenue and 6th Street, face the Beiseker Village Office (a former Canadian Pacific Railway station), turn south (left) on 1st Avenue and go 0.8 km. Turn right at the "Dump Gate" sign and go 0.3 km. The site is on the right, enclosed by a white wooden fence.

Remarks:

Why did the producers clear vacant land and create a trailer park for this scene when there were plenty of trailer parks in the area? (We found at least four during the course of our search for this location.)

For one thing, it was necessary to destroy Ennis's trailer in order to obtain all of the camera positions required. Additionally, their made-to-order trailer park had no traffic, no nosy neighbors, no other sources of possible interference that could mar the shooting of this critical scene.

Quotation:

"I reckon they can find themselves a new cowboy."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 27 June 2015

Chapter 19 - The Power of Love - 02 03 15



DVD capture



Contributed photo

DVD Time Code = 02 03 15

Location: Beiseker, AB, Town Dump

GPS: 51d 22m 55.26s -113d 32m 40.14s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Ennis's Trailer

Travel Directions:

At 1st Avenue and 6th Street, face the Beiseker Village Office (a former Canadian Pacific Railway station), turn south (left) on 1st Avenue and go 0.8 km. Turn right at the "Dump Gate" sign and go 0.3 km. The site is on the right, enclosed by a white wooden fence.

Remarks:

Alma, Jr., the quiet and insightful daughter who understands her father in a way that other women never did, provides Ennis with something very precious: the chance to step back and reflect upon what it means to be 19 years old and in love.

Quotation:

"To Alma and Kurt."

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 27 June 2015

Chapter 19 - The Power of Love - 02 07 45



DVD capture



Photo courtesy Steffi Schaefer.

DVD Time Code = 02 07 45

Location: Hwy 1, Exit 98, Mount Lougheed and Windtower

GPS: 51d 1m 38.5s -115d 14m 52.8s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Postcard Mountains

Travel Directions:

Banff Gate Mountain Resort. Follow Hwy 1 (Trans-Canada Hwy) west from Calgary to Dead Man's Flats, Exit 98. Proceed 2.0 km south to the parking area.

Remarks:

From here you have a postcard-perfect view of Mount Lougheed and nearby Windtower. Of course, no one could possibly herd sheep on these icy stone megaliths, but as the music builds and the tears flow, it makes little difference, does it? See:

<http://www.peakfinder.com/peakfinder.ASP?PeakName=Mount+Lougheed>

<http://www.peakfinder.com/MorePhotos.ASP?MtnId=558>

<http://www.peakfinder.com/peakfinder.ASP?PeakName=Windtower+Mountain>

"I know where Brokeback Mountain is," declares possessive John Twist, who seems capable of sharing nothing more than his miserable life with others. But for the inspired people who have told the story in word and on film, Brokeback Mountain is a beacon of community, where respect, openness, and sharing are free to grow and blossom. It is that spirit that we seek to honor here.

Quotation:

"Jack, I swear."

Pictures of surrounding area:



Chapter 19 - The Power of Love - 02 07 47



DVD capture



Photo courtesy Paul Peterson.

DVD Time Code = 02 07 47

Location: Beiseker, AB, Town Dump

GPS: 51d 22m 55.26s -113d 32m 40.14s

Map / Satellite Image: [Google Link](#)

Site Name: Ennis's Trailer Window

Travel Directions:

At 1st Avenue and 6th Street, face the Beiseker Village Office (a former Canadian Pacific Railway station), turn south (left) on 1st Avenue and go 0.8 km. Turn right at the "Dump Gate" sign and go 0.3 km. The site is on the right, enclosed by a white wooden fence.

Remarks:

Viewing the image framed by the trailer window (often through tears), one wonders if the field and sky, with their assuring hues of green, yellow (a field of canola), and blue, are the real thing. Standing at the actual location, they seem to be. Never mind that it is next to a dump. It is the serene image that forms a fitting apostrophe to Jack and Ennis's love, which will endure for as long as the *Brokeback* story is told. See:

<http://ca.epodunk.com/profiles/alberta/beiseker/2000191.html>

Pictures of surrounding area:





Revised 27 June 2015